

CHAPTER SEVENTY-SIX

WEST

FAMILY

Although their first home place was not in present Maries County, the West family were the first settlers in a territory now forming several counties in south Missouri for they came here in 1807, according to Schuiz' History of Miller County. They settled three or four miles over in Miller County from the western boundary of Maries. A few years later white settlers were prohibited from locating in this section, which restriction was in effect two or three years, but, as the Wests were already there, they stayed. Their first home was in the neighborhood of, and below, the Arch Cave on the Big Tavern, and further evidence of their location was found a few years ago in the form of a homemade tombstone of a small West boy, possibly a son of William, in the Big Tavern bottom not far from the Meta-St. Elizabeth road crossing. The boy had died in 1810.

William West was married when he came here, and either then or later was the father of at least three sons and one daughter living to maturity. If there were others, no record of them now remains. The sons we know about were Hardin, Woodson, and William Junior. The daughter was Sarah West.

Some time around the year 1811 William West either sold or abandoned his 'improvement', and seems to have started to move either to Arkansas or south Missouri, but died on the way and was buried by the side of the 'trace'. The widow and her children returned to the vicinity of the Miller-Maries County line, where they spent the remainder of their lives. No particulars as to either William West or his wife have been preserved, but they were likely from Tennessee.

There is a tradition in the family that many years after the death of William West an acquaintance, Richard Warren, was visiting in Springfield, where he heard of the body of a 'petrified' man in a museum, which, when he inspected it, turned out to be the body of William West. His inquiries led to his being told that the body had been found by some men building a road very near the place where he had been told West was buried, and had been 'petrified' by the action of limestone water. Before he could communicate with West's relatives the body was taken from Springfield to some point in the east, and further trace of it lost.

William West's widow and their children lived the remainder of their lives and died in Miller County, and it was not until the third generation that any of them lived on this side of the line.

William West, son of the first William, resided for many years on the Big Tavern. He built and operated West's Mill, below the Arch Cave on that stream, one of the first mills in this section. It was operated by water

power from a small dam across the creek. The name of his first wife is unknown; his second wife may have been, and is believed to have been, a Whitaker. They moved to Texas some years after the second marriage, and both died there. One son, Warren A. West, was born of the first marriage, and one 'Dee', of the second. The latter went to Oklahoma as a young, single man and no further record of him remains.

Warren A. (Doc) West is also long since dead, as are eight of the ten children born of his marriage to Nancy V., daughter of William S. Thompson. Three girls and a boy died in infancy. Polly married J. W. Stokes and left no children. Sarah married Shell Sisk and is survived by one son, Arthur of Bismarck. Mary married Dick Vaughan and was the mother of three children of whom two died in infancy. The other, Audrey, married in Oklahoma and is also dead, leaving one child. William, the remaining child to have passed away, was born July 27, 1867, and married in 1892 to Josephine Sweeney; one son, Roy, survives this marriage. He was married to Daisy, daughter of Elijah Martin, in 1903, and of the ten children born of his marriage his widow and the following eight survive: Edward of Jefferson City; Mrs. Edna Walsh of Kansas City; Mrs. Nettie Walker of Union; Mrs. Ida Mueller of Hermann, and Lawrence, Fred, Ted, and Mildred in the vicinity of Meta. William West died June 10, 1940.

Sarah West, daughter of William Senior, married Thomas Benton Whitaker, who came to Miller County from Virginia as a young man and thereafter made it his home. He served as Collector, Representative, and in other public capacities. Their home was on the Big Tavern, half a mile or so below Brays Mill. None of the eight children born to them ever lived in this county, and the following list may not be complete.

Archelaus Whitaker, their son, married Nancy, daughter

of John Crismon, and for convenience their descendants have been included in the Crismon chapter. James Whitaker settled near Oswego, Kansas, many years ago, married and died there; he left children, but relatives here are not in touch with them. William Whitaker moved to Arkansas, married and died there; relatives here believe children were born of this marriage, but have no record of them. Gay Whitaker married Mary O., daughter of William Shelton, and lived and died childless on the home place in Miller County. John Whitaker also died in Miller County, single.

Mark Whitaker married Mary Rothwell. Of the five children born to them Jennie, widow of A. E. Rowden, lives at Dixon, and Thomas at Swedeborg, both in Pulaski County. Susan married Nathan Lawson and her descendants will be found listed under that name. George and a daughter who married George Ahert are dead, and lists of their descendants are not at hand.

Matilda Whitaker married Jim Hannah Rowden. They spent most of their married lives at Iberia and all of it in Miller County. The two children born to them and yet living are Livonia, wife of Isaac Sherrill, and Emma, wife of Isaac Jones, both of Miller County. The four deceased daughters are: Daisy who died single; Elcena who married a Durham, moved to Springfield and there died, leaving at least three children, Sidney, Seth, and Ethel, and possibly more; Mary married a Lindemus and left one or two children, now in California; Cora married George, son of William Shelton, and left one daughter, Evelyn, now wife of John Ferguson of Iberia. Joe Rowden, the only son of this marriage, has been dead something like twenty years. He left children, but the name of his wife and the present addresses of his children are not available.

'Babe', the remaining child of T. B. and Sarah Whitaker, married William Skaggs and moved to Arkansas

more than fifty years ago, since which time relatives here have maintained little touch with them, and none in late years. Both parents are dead. They were the parents of at least seven children: Ray, Gay, Walter, Hester, Mamie, Maude, Lula, and possibly others.

Hardin West, son of William Senior, was more intimately connected with Maries County than any of the rest of William's children, for while he never lived here himself, almost all his children spent their adult lives and died here. His own home was on or near the Osage River, somewhere below the mouth of the Big Tavern, and he occupied it from the time of his marriage until he went to Texas.

His first wife was Katherine Williams, to whom ten children were born: William, David, Richard, John, Thomas, Mark, Jane, Sallie, Angeline, and Emeline. After the death of his first wife he married again, the name of his second wife not being recalled except that her first name was Sarah. Dee, Marion, and 'Doc', were born in Missouri of this marriage, after which, now more than fifty years ago, the family moved to or near Grapevine, Texas, where both parents later died. At least one child, a daughter, Lucy, was born to them after they settled in Texas. No attempt is made to trace the descendants of the children of the second marriage, because all of them went to Texas with their parents and relatives here have been out of touch with them ever since.

Of the children of the first marriage, William went west while hardly more than a boy, and thereafter lived in Utah and Idaho, in which latter state--at Paris--he died more than thirty years ago. He was married and had a family, but nothing is known of them here. David West died in early manhood, single.

Richard West married Ailsie, daughter of Daniel Burd, and after her death married again in Dallas County, no

children being born of the second marriage. Mrs. Thomas Crandall, a daughter, lives in Long Beach, California; a son, Hardin, lives in Oregon; two other sons, John and Thomas, now or formerly lived at Long Lane, Dallas County.

John West, almost a lifelong resident of this county, was born November 15, 1835, and died March 28, 1914. At seventeen years of age he was prospecting in Colorado so successfully that when he returned he brought enough gold with him to make a fair load for his future wife, Mary (Polly), daughter of Daniel Burd. Of their two children Kate, wife of George Burns, lives in Henry County; and Daniel M. (Doc) West, who was born February 11, 1870, died July 27, 1915, spent most of his life on the Little Tavern, having been in the mercantile business at and near Vancleve a good part of his adult life. His wife was Sally, daughter of G. P. Skaggs, who was born June 27, 1874, and died November 2, 1918. The five children born of this marriage, all yet living, are: Iva, wife of Isaac Barnhart, and Mrs. Veva Dunlap, a widow, of this county; Clarence C. West in St. Louis, Harry G. West in Kansas City, and Paul in California.

Thomas West, next child of Hardin, was born in 1837 and died April 18, 1908. He was in the Union Army during the Civil War (much to his disgust, having been captured and 'persuaded' to enlist while on his way to enlist under Price). He married Anna, daughter of Daniel Burd, who was born May 20, 1835, and died December 1, 1912. They lived all their married lives and both died in this county. Of the three children born of their marriage one son, Warren A. West, is dead, and the other, George West, may be dead also. Both moved to or near their Uncle William in Idaho a number of years ago, and both married there and had children, but their number and present addresses are not at hand. Nora West, daughter of Thomas, married Dr. J. E. Neeley and lives in Henry County, her husband having passed away a few years ago.

Of the two sons born of their marriage George lives in Ohio and Thomas in Kansas City.

Mark West, the youngest son of Hardin and likely the youngest child, was born January 11, 1839, and died November 29, 1912. His first wife was Lucy, daughter of Oliver Holmes, to whom he was married July 25, 1861. They lived in Boone Township awhile, later removing to Dog Tail, sometimes called Rogers Creek, where he thereafter made his home, and where his wife died February 3, 1879. She was born in Osage County December 1, 1841. Of the eight children born of his first marriage, two died in infancy and three after reaching maturity. The three yet living are: Caroline, wife of George Sherrill of Arlington, Missouri; Harriet, now Mrs. McWhorter of Springfield, and Ella, wife of Alex Pickering of Tulsa, Oklahoma. The three who have passed away are David, Jane, and Mary.

David H. West married a Williams in this county and lived for a number of years in Maries and Osage counties before moving to Colorado, where he died childless. Jane West married a Norris and died some three years ago in Tennessee, where she spent most of her later married life. She left two daughters, now Mrs. May Stephens and Mrs. Alta Woodside, both of Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Mary West, the eldest and remaining deceased child, of Mark West, was born in this county April 15, 1862, and died at Vienna March 27, 1924. She was married in Springfield, Missouri, June 7, 1887, to Richard A. Street, who was born in Indiana November 29, 1851, and died, also at Vienna, September 30, 1923. Shortly after their marriage they moved to and thereafter made their home in Maries County, first near the Big Maries, and for the last several years of their lives in and near Vienna. Of the eight children born of their marriage the six yet living are: Clifford of Avant, Oklahoma; Hugh and Floyd of

Columbia, Missouri; Edward of Lesterville, Missouri; Mrs. Winnie Penney of Derby, Kansas; and Victor who owns and lives on the Coldiron place on the upper river in this county.

The two deceased children are Lela and Dewey. Lela married Randolph Carico and died in this county several years ago, survived by her widower and their three children, Tobias of St. Louis, Victor near Spring Creek, and Lottie Belle who lives with her father in this county. The other deceased child, Dewey, twin to Hugh, died in Sioux City, Nebraska, several years ago; he married an Anderson in this county, who survives, together with their two children; Myrl, the youngest, lives with her mother in Sioux City; Mildred, the other daughter, is married and is believed to live in Missouri, but her address and married name are not known to relatives here.

On July 23, 1882, Mark West married Isabelle, daughter of Isaac Perkins, of this county; she survives at the advanced age of ninety-two, and lives at Arlington with A. C. (Boy) West, the only child born of their marriage.

Of the four daughters born of Hardin West's first marriage, Angeline never married; Sallie and Emeline were the first and second wives of 'Doc' Green, but nothing is now known of any descendants of either; Jane married Thomas Barnhart and lived and died in this county; while a complete list of their children is not at hand, it is known to include William, George, Mark, Nancy, wife of George Pendleton, and Martha, widow of Isaac Robertson, the latter of St. Louis. All the children are thought to be living except Mark, whose descendants are not known here.

Woodson West, probably the youngest child of the first William West, married a Reynolds and lived and died on his farm in Miller County a few miles from the Maries County line, where his widow continued to make her

home and where his six children grew to maturity. Of the six, two, Mrs. Sarah Pearson of Vienna, and Mrs. Arzilla Hedge of Iberia, survive. Of the four who have passed away Thomas died in infancy; the oldest daughter married James Burnett and moved to Howell County a great many years ago, where she later died; the family consisted of at least two boys and one girl. Mark married a Livingston in Miller County and died there, leaving two sons, one in Miller County and the other in Kansas City. John H. West, the remaining son of Woodson, married Peggy Jane, daughter of William S. Thompson, of this county. His wife died in 1898 and he has been dead some five or six years. They had eight children. Andy, died a number of years ago in Joplin, he was married and the father of one son. The other seven, all believed to be yet living, are: Oliver of Pay Down; Francis and Rose, wife of Balster Scheulen in Kansas City; Lena, wife of Stanley Farnham in Poplar Bluff; Henry in Iowa; Elsie and Lettie, whose married names are not at hand, in Kansas.